

Connecticut BASS Nation Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2015

Roll Call – 7:35PM

- **Clubs Absent** – CT Black Bass Anglers, Talcott Mountain Bassmasters and Bass Attack

- **Announcements:**

1. Dean Rustics Mother, Pauline Rustic passed away and we would like to extend our Sympathies. The CBN is sending \$100.00 to the LCI Inc in Pauline's name.

2. B.A.S.S. Announces Expanded Bassmaster Elite Series Schedule For 2016

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Some of America's top-ranked bass fisheries — plus a new wrinkle in tournament formats and an extra event — await the nation's top professional bass anglers competing in the 2016 Bassmaster Elite Series.

The lineup will take anglers to 10 fisheries in nine states, and it includes 10 Elite events, an increase from nine Elite tournaments in 2015.

The world's premier bass tournament circuit kicks off in Tulsa, Okla., March 4-6, when the GEICO Bassmaster Classic presented by GoPro, widely known as the "Super Bowl of Bass Fishing," unfolds on Grand Lake O' the Cherokees.

Two weeks later, the Elite Series gets underway on Florida's St. Johns River, a hugely popular stop for veteran professionals. From there, the circuit winds through eight more states before concluding in the \$1 million Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship in mid-September at a site to be announced later.

"We believe the 2016 Elite Series lineup of lakes is the best we've ever put together," said Bruce Akin, B.A.S.S. CEO. "Our Elite anglers will find a lot to love about it, and we are expecting to attract new fans in new places this year. That's the key to growing the sport." Akin noted that the Elite Series has set new attendance records each of the past three years. The previous record of 128,600 from 2014 was shattered in August. With one event remaining in the season — the 2015 Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin — attendance for the season has already reached 156,765.

Most of the 2016 tournament destinations are included in the *Bassmaster Magazine's* 100 Best Bass Lakes list for 2015.

Toledo Bend Reservoir on the Texas-Louisiana border was named the nation's No. 1 bass lake this year. It will host Elite No. 5, May 12-15. Other top-notch bass fisheries include the St. Johns River (56th); Bull Shoals Lake, Arkansas (44th); Cayuga Lake, New York (61st); and the Mississippi River at La Crosse, Wis. (52nd).

Winyah Bay at Georgetown, S.C., where the Pee Dee, Black and Sampit rivers of South Carolina converge, appears on the Elite list for the first time, although B.A.S.S. club anglers fished it during the Old Milwaukee B.A.S.S. Nation Southern Divisional in April 2015. Big bass in that event weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces.

Elite No. 3, to be held in April out of Mountain Home, Ark., will take place on two lakes — a first for Elite competition. The pros will alternate between two adjacent fisheries, Bull Shoals Lake, west of Mountain Home, and Norfork Lake, east of the host city. The full field of approximately 110 competitors will compete one day on Bull Shoals and the next on Norfork. The field will be cut to 50 for the semifinals on Bull Shoals, and then to the Top 12 for the final round on Norfork.

“This event will challenge the pros’ strategic decision-making during practice,” said Angie Thompson, vice president of events and sponsorship activation for B.A.S.S. “Bull Shoals and Norfork will fish very similarly, but the anglers will have to be strategic in how and where they practice for the two lakes.” As in most other Elite events, the anglers will have three days of “official” practice immediately preceding the competition.

The tournament will mark the first visit to Norfork for the Bassmaster Elite Series, which celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2016. Weigh-ins will be on the campus of Arkansas State University/Mountain Home, one of the most picturesque settings in the Ozarks.

Akin said special announcements are planned later for other events in 2016, including the third annual BASSfest and the 2016 Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship.

The popular marshal program, which permits fishing fans to ride along and observe the Elite pros during competition, will continue in 2016. Enrollment for B.A.S.S. Nation and Life members begins Dec. 1 online and Dec. 3 by phone. Registration for other B.A.S.S. members begins Dec. 8 online and Dec. 10 by phone. Entries will be accepted beginning at 9 a.m. CT each of those days.

Following is the 2016 Classic and Elite schedule:

Dates	Tournament	Fishery	Host Community/State
March 4-6	Bassmaster Classic	Grand Lake	Tulsa, Okla.
March 17-20	Elite No. 1	St. Johns River	Palatka, Fla.
April 7-10	Elite No. 2	Winyah Bay	Georgetown, S.C.
April 21-24	Elite No. 3	Bull Shoals/Norfolk	Mountain Home, Ark.
April 28-May 1		Elite No. 4	Wheeler Lake Decatur, Ala.
May 12-15	Elite No. 5	Toledo Bend	Many, La.
June 8-12	BASSfest	TBA	
June 23-26	Elite No. 7	Cayuga Lake	Union Springs, N.Y.
Aug. 11-14	Elite No. 8	Potomac River	Charles County, Md.
Sept. 8-11	Elite No. 9	Mississippi River	La Crosse, Wis.
Sept. 15-18	AOY Championship	TBA	

3. BASS Nation Dues will remain at \$30 per member. At the end of the year, August 31, 2016, we will run a club report and based on the number of members in each club, the clubs may get a rebate for each member on their roster.

Rebate Formula:

6-12 members - NO REBATE

13-20 members - \$3 per member rebate

21 and over - \$5 per member rebate

Clubs do not have to notify B.A.S.S. or apply for this rebate. Clubs should receive the rebate, if they qualify, before Thanksgiving each year.

A motion to accept the previous meeting minutes was made, seconded and approved

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

- **Treasurer Report:** Was provided by Marc Levesque
- **Conservation & FAC Report:** Submitted by Dean Rustic

CBN Conservation objectives for the 2015

1. Work closely with CT DEEP Officials to create a C.A.R.E. Bass Class
2. Conservation Projects for Housatonic Watershed Organizations
3. Create a Youth/School based Conservation initiative
4. Leverage our position as number 1 for fishing revenue to get funding for CBN endorsed projects

Information from this past Month –

1. Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting
 - a. Discussion on Bears at Session Woods
 - b. Discussion on Carp in Candlewood Lake.
 - i. Questioned Bill Hyatt about funding for replacement of loss habitat in Candlewood Lake that the Carp eat.
 - c. Announcement of the Eastern Divisionals & International Carp Tournament
 - d. Sportsman Day Saturday September 26th at Session Woods.
 - e. Discussion on Funding for DEEP with fees/stamps
2. Fisheries Advisory Council
 - a. Discussion on bringing more members to the FAC. Unlike the CAC, there can be multiple members from a single organization. Discussed more attendance from BASS.
 - b. Discussion on the Marine Fisheries Quota for the Eastern US
 - c. Presentation on the CARE Program was made.
3. Working with Mossback to plan the types of structures for each of the 3 bodies of water in the Housatonic watershed (Lilly, Zoar, and Housatonic) and to see about discounts for the Shimano Grant.
4. Working with DEEP to move our agendas forward.
 - a. Plan for better Bass Management
 - b. Better Access for Fishing at Candlewood lake
 - c. Create a campaign to stop Trout fisherman from braking the jaw of bass they catch. Many on Highland, West Hill and Twin Lakes.
 - d. Discussed having DEEP attend the BASS Conservation Summit at the Bassmaster Classic

- **Boating Advisory**: No report
- **CLA REPORT**: No report
- **CT Yankee Haddam Canal Issue**: We have spoken with Peter Aarrestad and he has been told they will be taking it down by the first week of October.
- **Tournament Report**: Sal Messina reviewed the tournament rules for the 2015 State Championship with the board of directors.
- **Sponsorship Report**: Nothing new. Bob is working on a few possible Rod sponsors. If you know of anyone who might be interested in sponsoring the CBN please let Bob know. We do have a few spots on the nose of the Trailer available and two spots on the sides. We will be redoing the nose, (adding and taking away Logos if necessary) at the end of the year or early Spring.
- Livingston Lures has come on as a Gold Sponsor for the CBN this year. In addition to all that they have done for us they provided us with a code to give to all members to use ONCE per Member. It is for your use only!!!! Do not give to anyone who is not a CBN member please!

You must get the code from your Club President or any Executive Board member the code cannot be put into the minutes. It is for 15% off of your one time order, Guys, please utilize this so we can continue this great sponsorship!

Berkley Discount

- The Berkley discount for B.A.S.S. Nation members has changed in how it will be processed. It is 25% off all Berkley Products for B.A.S.S. Nation members. What has changed is that it is now available 24/7 365 days a year! Also what has changed is the way you receive the discount. Members **must** follow these steps in order to receive the discount.
 1. Go to Bassmaster.com – Join B.A.S.S.- Benefits or go to this link. <https://ssl.palmcoastd.com/pcd/apps/index.cfm?iMagId=57000&iPage=BASSBENEFITLOGIN&iXz=A05CF3B4374EA0549ED41FBFF6A7F39F>
 2. Log into the benefits page with B.A.S.S. Number and last name
 3. Click on Berkley Nation Discount
 4. Order

- “If You Can’t Beat Em Whip Em”

25% Discount Offer

Just like the B.A.S.S. Nation, we are a grass roots company. We believe in our 100% American Made Products and make baits for all levels of anglers, from beginners to seasoned pros. From an idea developed in our basement four years ago we continue to grow at a rapid pace requiring us to move to a separate building on our property. As our growth continues we are looking to expand that building in 2015. Just like most of you, we also work full time jobs. Even with this limitation, we now have fourteen dealers across the United States, one in Australia, one in Spain, and are bringing on our newest dealer in Nova Scotia.

Our process is one step at a time, one person at a time, and one dealer at a time. We aim to take care of every individual customer the same way, whether you are the beginner or a Bassmaster Classic Winner. We take pride in sustaining our down home family company identity.

Henry, one of the owners of our company, spent over twenty years as President of a B.A.S.S. club in Western Pennsylvania. He also spent several years as President of the West Virginia Federation. Matt, our other owner, provides the creative mind that is helping our company grow.

We would like to extend a 25% discount on any order purchased from Whip Em Baits for all of the B.A.S.S. Nation. We are asking you to help spread the word to your Federation members.

With your help we can continue to grow and compete with much larger companies.

You can use the discount by entering the discount code **BNM2015** at the end of your orders.

Check out our products at www.whipembaits.com. With soft plastics, jigs, spinnerbaits, and buzzbaits, we’ve got a wide variety of proven bass catching baits!

We thank you for your support and wish you the best of luck this season.

Sincerely,

Matt Marsula Henry Likar
Co-Owners Whip Em Baits

- Midstate Battery

A discount is available to ALL Nation members.

Every club Rep received a packet with all the discounts available to us at the Feb 26th Meeting. We have it posted on the Forum also. Please let Sylvia Know when you order & the amount. They can be reached at:

139C West Dudley Town Rd. Bloomfield, CT 06002

Phone 860-243-0646 Fax 860-243-5945

Email: smerone@midstatebattery.com

- Reynolds’ Garage and Marine Contingency Program 2015
Qualifying Events...
May 17, 2015 CBN Tournament #1, Candlewood Lake
June 14, 2015 CBN Tournament #2, Connecticut River
July 12, 2015 CBN Tournament #3 Candlewood

October 18, 2015 CBN Classic/Tournament #4, Lilly

Payout...

1. CBN Guaranteed Payout???
2. Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money based on the age of the highest finishing Skeeter Owners boat (only one award per event).
 - a. \$3,000.00 (2012 model Skeeter boat or newer)
 - b. \$1,000.00 (2011 model Skeeter boat or older)
3. Skeeter Real Money up to \$3,000.00

Rules...

1. The Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money will be paid to the highest finishing Skeeter Owner in each of the four CBN Tournaments outlined above. Only one prize per event will be awarded. Dollar amount of the award will be determined by the age of the highest finishing Skeeter Owners boat...2012 model or newer Skeeter boat will qualify for \$3,000.00 per event, 2011 model or older Skeeter boat will qualify for \$1,000.00 per event.
2. The highest finishing registered Skeeter Owner must have verifiable proof that he or she is fishing from his or her Skeeter boat to qualify for the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money. Proof of ownership and insurance must be produced and verified by the CBN Tournament Director at weigh-in at each of the four 2015 CBN Events.
3. In the event that the highest finishing Skeeter Owner cannot provide verifiable proof that he or she is the registered owner of the Skeeter boat that he or she used in the event, the second highest finishing Skeeter Owner will become the winner of the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money.
4. There will be no limit to the times an angler can win per calendar year.
5. The four CBN Events outlined above will also be sanctioned for 2015 Skeeter Real Money. Each CBN Event must have a minimum of 30 boats and 60 anglers to qualify for 2015 Skeeter Real Money. To qualify for 2015 Skeeter Real Money, each individual registered Skeeter Owner must register for the 2015 Skeeter Real Money program. Go to www.skeeterboats.com and download an application. Annual dues are \$25.00 per year. Skeeter Real Money rules are available by clicking on the Skeeter Real Money logo on the www.skeeterboats.com website homepage.
6. In the event that two or more Skeeter Owners daily catch weight results in a tie, each angler's largest fish of that day (by weight) will be used as a tie breaker to determine the winner of the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money at each CBN Event.
7. The highest finishing Skeeter Owner must catch and weigh-in one legal bass to qualify for the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Contingency Prize Money. In the event that no registered Skeeter Owners catch and weigh-in one legal bass, the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money will not be awarded for that event.
8. The tournament director has final decision in all issues and disputes.

- Rigid Industries

There is a 30% off offer to all members. You will need a code. We will get it out to you as soon as we receive it. NO CODE YET, WORKING ON IT!

- Effective March 1st

Power-Pole B.A.S.S. Nation Rebate Program

Dear Presidents,

Power-Pole is a proud sponsor of the B.A.S.S Nation in 2015. We will continue to offer a rebate program to B.A.S.S. Nation Members. The new rebate structure will be effective March 1st 2015. The new discounts will be as follows:

- Sportsman 2 Model: \$75
- Pro 2 Model: \$100
- Signature Series 2 Model: \$125
- Blade Model: \$150

The above stated discounts are available via rebate program through our website. In order to receive your rebate, you will need to register the Power-Pole at www.Power-Pole.com located under the "Support" column header then "Product Registration".

Once the product has been registered, you will then find the link "Apply for Rebate" to complete the rebate form. Once all the given information is verified we will issue you a check or credit in accordance with the discount you are slated to receive. You will need to provide a copy of your purchase receipt and membership card.

For the State Team Members, we want to invite you to apply for our Pro-Staff program. The program is geared towards your status within the fishing community. The application can be completed at www.power-pole.com under "Pro's" then "Join Our Pro-Staff". With this program you will receive your discount at the time of purchase. For more information about our prostaff program please contact our pro-staff manager Casey Carpenter at Casey@power-pole.com

This rebate is not valid on any boat where the Power-Pole anchor is standard equipment. This program is subject to change or be terminated at any time. The rebate program is only valid towards one purchase per person per year and does not include accessories, installation or any other additional expense.

Sincerely,

Curt Hill,

Advertising Manager

9010 Palm River Road. Tampa, FL 33619 phone 813.689.9932 fax 813.689.8883 power-pole.com

- WAVE AWAY OFFER

I've been a fellow BASS Nation Member for nearly over 20 years. I'm excited to see how quickly the youth tournament programs are growing and would love my company to be a part of it. I own a product called Wave Away and we offer a Sonar/GPS Screen Cleaning Kit that's endorsed by BASS Nation Champion Brandon Palaniuk. I've put together a fundraiser where BASS Nation Clubs can earn \$5 per referral when they send folks to our website to purchase

Wave Away. Clubs can also earn \$20 per referral when telling potential retailers about our product and they sign up to carry Wave Away.

- Signing up to raise funds is simple. Log onto www.waveaway.com and sign up now. It takes about 1 minute to register and it can earn your club a ton of money. We also have a few fun prizes for participating clubs. Bassmaster Elite Series Pro Brandon Palaniuk will be doing a private seminar for the club that makes the most referrals. We will also draw one random participating club and they will receive a free Hydrowave mini unit.
- Sincerely, Chris Lambert Wave Away LLC www.waveaway.com

- **CBN Scholarship**: No Report
- **CBN Robert S Malloy Scholarship**: David Santos asked Marc to send a check to UConn for the Robert S Malloy Scholarship in the amount of \$1050.00. David stated that a winner will be chosen by November.
- **Banquet Report**: The annual CBN banquet is scheduled for November 14th 2015
- **Membership Committee**- No Report
- **Website Committee**- No Report
- **Audit Committee** – The CBN will need two more people to be on the audit committee to be held in January, Dan Monroe has volunteered to be the chairperson.
- **High school & Juniors**: The 2015 trail has been completed. We concluded with a fun tournament with all boat captains fishing and weighing in as well as a half a dozen parents. John Piscionnerre will be my assistant next year. We want to get enough commitment for 20-25 high school teams. We will be looking to the state team and all clubs for additional support. There are 8 new schools and more teams forming from existing high schools in the program. This could produce as many as 15 new teams!! We are also looking to get some sponsorship items for the kids who attend the 2015 CBN banquet.

Respectfully, Ron Frisk

- **Finance Committee**: No Report. The CBN is in need of a volunteer to head this committee and develop a proposed budget for 2016.
- **State Team 2015** : It was a tough bite on the River!!!! I am very proud of The CBN State Team for never giving up! Congratulations to the 2105 State Team for coming in second place! Congratulations to Alex Wetherell for finishing first overall and going to the Nationals in November!!!! Congratulations to Nonewaug High School. Noah Winslow & Doug Marino & Terry Baksay for coming in first place amongst the High School teams!!!! All team members will be turning in their receipts by Oct 18th and I will have a report on the cost at the October CBN Meeting.

Respectfully, Sylvia Morris

A motion to accept all reports as given was made, seconded and approved

OLD BUSINESS

- **Excused Absences:** Team Skeeter, Tolland County, Bass Busters, Greater Hartford, Mohawk Valley
- **Disabled Military Veterans Tournament Report:** We held our second tournament of 2015 on September 15 at Riverside Park in Hartford. We had 15 veterans participate in this event. The weigh in was conducted by John Stewart from BASS using the BASS stage which was set up for the Eastern Divisional Tournament. All participants had a great time. These tournaments could not take place without the volunteers from the CBN. The Major Steven Roy Andrews Fishing Outreach Program and the Gaylord Hospital Sports Association would like to thank all of the CBN members who donated their time and equipment for this event.
- **Annual BASS Nation Membership Dues:** On September 1st the B.A.S.S. Nation on line roster was cleared. Going forward dues will remain \$30 per member. On August 31, 2016 we will run a club report and based on the number of members in each club some clubs may receive a rebate.

Rebate Formula

6-12 members - NO REBATE

13-20 members - \$3 per member rebate

21 and over - \$5 per member rebate

Note: Clubs do not have to notify B.A.S.S. or apply for this rebate. Clubs should receive the rebate, if they qualify, before Thanksgiving each year.

2016 B.A.S.S. Nation on line roster and dues are due by Nov 1st.

- **2016 CBN Dues & Rosters: ARE DUE BY NOVEMBER 1. YOU MUST USE THE ROSTER FORM PROVIDED FOR YOU ON CTBASS.COM. Please fill out the form completely and submit it with ONE check per club!!!! We are in need of new members!!! Non Boaters are a must have for our 2016 tournament format.**

- **Annual by Law proposals were due at the September meeting. They must be submitted to the President in writing. All proposals will be reviewed, copied and handed out at the October CBN meeting. The proposals will be discussed at the November meeting and voted on in December. Sylvia asked the board to hand in all proposals.**
- Sylvia asked for additional nominations for Tournament Director. Sal Messena has been nominated for 2016.
- Sylvia reported that the CBN/NEBA TCT held T#5 on Candlewood on September 11. 20 Teams participated. So far Reed Johnson & Justin Mesick are leading the CBN/NEBA TCT.
- **The NRD Grant:** We are on the last step and money should be in account in two weeks. We now need to plan to get out there this fall and GPS & Chart locations to place the Mossback Fish Attractors. Please let Dean or Sylvia know if you are interested in assisting with this project.
- **Folds of Honor:** We have sold all 20 Raffle tickets for a 17- 1/2' Aluminum Triton. The drawing will be held at the Nationals in November.
- Vinny Mucci has put forth a club Challenge, Heart of CT sent a check for 100.00 to help the family of Joey Eisch with Funeral Expenses and would like to see the other clubs do the same. Anyone meet the challenge?

Mail checks to: Brian & Maria Eisch, 959 County Route 15, Lacona, NY 13083

- **Triton Alliance Leads Program:** Please let Sylvia know if anyone in your club is considering purchasing a Triton so we can connect and get credit for the sale. We have 24 leads already turned in. Let's hope they match with the sales and we should earn 5000.00!!!
- The CBN Website and Calendar have been updated! If you have anything that needs to go on the Calendar or website submit it to Sylvia.
- The Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Appreciation Day is scheduled to take place at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington on Saturday, September 26, 2015. So far

we have Kevin Lavender and his 2 sons, Ron Frisk and his son Logan volunteering for this event.

NEW BUSINESS

New Dates for 2016 Divisional Tournaments

- **Western – April 4-8, 2016**
- **Central – April 18-22, 2016**
- **Eastern – May 2-6, 2016**

- Sylvia reminded the board to make sure all club President Information is correct on your on line Roster. All dues rebates will be sent to each club President.

- Nominations are open for the Secretary and Treasurer positions for 2016.
Call one of the Nominating Committee with your nominations,
Bryan Mc Cleary 203-592-1007
Ron Frisk 860-940-5553
Dave Gilbert 860-428-7130

Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the CBN President at the November meeting. Voting will take place at the December meeting.

- **CBN TOURNAMENT SCALE** – A motion was made to spend up to \$2000.00 on a new tournament scale and a new lap top for the 2016 season. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board of Directors.

- Alex Wetherell requested funding to practice for the Nationals which are being held in Monroe LA in November. A motion was made to reimburse Alex for up to \$2000.00 as long as original receipts are submitted with an expense report. The motion seconded and approved by the Board of Directors. Sylvia provided him with an expense report form.

- Alex Wetherall brought up the need for volunteers to help grow the High School Fishing Program. Alex suggested that all members of the State Team be obligated to participate in at least one High School event as a boater or on shore volunteer. More to come on this.

- A motion was made by Ron Frisk asking if the High School/Juniors can purchase a Tee Sponsor for the Memorial Golf Tournament in Memory of Katie Dobroczynski being held on October 2, 2015. The cost is \$100.00. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board of Directors. Marc will send a check from the High School account.

- A motion was made that the CBN match the donation from the High School account. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board of Directors. Marc will send the check for \$100.00 from the CBN general account.
- Sylvia reminded the board to ask their club members to utilize the hotels in Danbury that supply us with a fishermen rate!! Newbury Inn (best parking), Micro-tel & Best Western. All information is available on the CBN website!

OPENS FOR 2015

See your club representatives for further information.

- MBB High School Benefit Open, Nov 1st, Candlewood 7 to 3
- Memorial Golf Tournament in Memory of Katie Dobroczyński Oct. 2nd 2015
Please contact Christina Dobroczyński at dob716@yahoo.com
- Busty Brawlers open Nov 8th Candy, Squantz 50 boats, benefitting Breast Cancer.
- Snowball Open, Nov 1st, Highland Lake, 8 to 3.

Meeting Raffle Winners

Whip em baits - Rob Killeen

Livingston Lure - Mike Marsullio

Meeting adjourned – 9:00PM

The next CBN meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2015